

*****U N C L A S S I F I E D*****S COPY

OP IMMED
DE WTE #4558 3531312
O 191303Z DEC 73
FM THE SITUATION ROOM TOHAK 143

TO LARRY EAGLEBURGER FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER

UNCLAS VIA AIRCRAFT WH37708

TOHAK 143

DECEMBER 19, 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

FROM: THE SITUATION ROOM

SUBJECT: MORNING NEWS SUMMARY

THE WASHINGTON POST

SYRIA OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED YESTERDAY THAT IT WILL BOYCOTT THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE CONFERENCE IN GENEVA. (A-1)

ANTHONY ASTRACHAN STATES THAT THIS HAS BEEN A VERY GOOD YEAR FOR THE UN, PRIMARILY BECAUSE THE UNSC PROVED ABLE TO PLAY WHAT YOU CALLED "A VERY USEFUL ROLE" IN ENDING THE MIDDLE EAST WAR. (A-5)

PRIME MINISTER HEATH HAS POSTPONED HIS NEW YEAR'S TRIP TO PEKING, ANOTHER CASUALTY OF BRITAIN'S POWER CRISIS. (A-12)

JAPANESE SPOKESMEN ANNOUNCED IN CAIRO YESTERDAY THAT JAPAN HAS OFFERED EGYPT LOW-INTEREST, UNTIED LOANS TOTALING \$280 MILLION FOR THE REOPENING OF THE SUEZ CANAL. (A-16)

EVANS AND NOVAK, IN DISCUSSING THE ARAB PROMISE TO EASE THE OIL EMBARGO, NOTE THAT IT MARKED A PSYCHOLOGICAL BREAKTHROUGH, PARTICULARLY EASING YOUR FEAR OF BARGAINING "AT THE POINT OF A GUN." (A-25)

THE NEW YORK TIMES

BERNARD GWERTZMAN COVERS THE SYRIAN GOVERNMENT'S DENIAL TO ATTEND THE GENEVA PEACE CONFERENCE. SYRIA ACCUSED THE U.S. AND ISRAEL OF "MANEUVERS THAT WOULD LEAD US INTO AN ENDLESS WILDERNESS." (A-1)

THE SOVIET UNION OPENED A CONFERENCE OF RANKING PARTY OFFICIALS FROM ITS INNER CIRCLE OF ALLIES IN THE COMMUNIST MOVEMENT. (A-4)

EDWIN DALE INDICATES THAT ACCORDING TO SPECIALISTS IN INTERNATIONAL LAW, THE OIL EMBARGO AGAINST THE U.S. IMPOSED BY SAUDI

-2-

ARABIA VIOLATES A "LITTLE-KNOWN" 1933 TREATY BETWEEN THE TWO

PSN:013421

PAGE 01

TOR:353/13:14Z

DTG:191303Z DEC 73

*****U N C L A S S I F I E D*****S COPY

*****U N C L A S S I F I E D*****S COPY

COUNTRIES. STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS WERE RELUCTANT TO DISCUSS THE MATTER.

ALVIN SHUSTER REPORTS ON PRIME MINISTER HEATH'S CANCELLATION OF HIS SCHEDULED TRIP TO CHINA NEXT MONTH. THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT SAID THAT DUE TO THE "DIFFICULT AND GRAVE SITUATION" ARISING FROM BRITAIN'S INDUSTRIAL STRIFE AND ENERGY CRISIS, THE PRIME MINISTER IS UNABLE TO VISIT CHINA. (A-22)

THE FULL TEXT OF JAMES RESTON'S COLUMN ENTITLED "THE LIMITS OF POWER" WILL BE FORTHCOMING.

THE BALTIMORE SUN

THE SOVIET UNION CONVENED A MEETING OF THE TOP IDEOLOGISTS OF ITS CLOSEST ALLIES IN MOSCOW YESTERDAY, APPARENTLY TO WORK OUT A COUNTEROFFENSIVE AGAINST WESTERN INFLUENCE DURING AN ERA OF DETENTE. THE MEETING ALSO FUELED SPECULATION ABOUT SOVIET PLANS TO ORGANIZE A NEW MEETING OF WORLD COMMUNIST PARTIES SOMETIME NEXT YEAR. (A-4)

THE OIL EMBARGO AGAINST THE UNITED STATES, IMPOSED BY SAUDI ARABIA, VIOLATES A LITTLE-KNOWN 1933 TREATY BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, ACCORDING TO INTERNATIONAL LAW SPECIALISTS IN AND OUT OF GOVERNMENT. THE STATE DEPARTMENT IS AWARE OF THIS, BUT IS SAID TO BE RELUCTANT TO DISCUSS THE MATTER TO AVOID CONFRONTATION WITH THE ARAB NATIONS. A KEY CLAUSE IN THE 40-YEAR-OLD TREATY PROVIDES THAT EACH NATION WOULD GRANT EACH OTHER "MOST-FAVORED-NATION" TREATMENT IN TRADE MATTERS. THE TREATY DOES NOT BAN EXPORT EMBARGOES BUT SAYS THAT THEY MUST BE APPLIED EVENLY, AT LEAST TO THE EXTENT THAT THE U.S. SHOULD NOT BE WORSE THAN ANY OTHER COUNTRY. (A-7)

A SUN EDITORIAL STATES THERE IS A CERTAIN DANGER IN ANOTHER KISSINGER-THO MEETING IF IT SEEMS TO SIGNIFY EVEN THE SLIGHTEST U.S. ACQUIESCENCE IN THE PRESENT SITUATION. IF YOU CAN DISSUADE THO FROM THE PRESENT COURSE OF ACTION THE COMMUNISTS HAVE TAKEN, THE PARIS TALKS WILL NOT BE IN VAIN. YOUR MEETING WILL SERVE AN ADDED PURPOSE IF IT REMINDS THIS COUNTRY THAT THERE IS A WORLD BEYOND THE ENERGY SHORTAGE, THE MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT, AND WATERGATE. (A-4)

730

PSN:013421 PAGE 02 OF 02 TOR:353/13:14Z DTG:191303Z DEC 73

*****U N C L A S S I F I E D*****S COPY